

## The Bloomfield Record.

S. M. HULIN, Editor and Proprietor.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1875.

ALL who are interested in having a live newspaper in this village are requested to send as mail, or to the publishing office, local items of news, correspondence, etc., for publication.

No charge is made for publishing Marriages, Deaths, or Religious Notices.

Single numbers of THE RECORD can always be had at this office, at the Post Office, and of the Newsmakers.

All kinds of PRINTING done at THE RECORD Office.

### Merry and Happy!

1876! Upon the threshold of a New Year a great Nation waits in flushed expectancy. Soon will the bells ring out in glad harmony; soon will the bunting skip gaily up in honor of America's Centennial New Year. Proudly Columbia reviews her hundred years of independent achievement, unparalleled in history. Resolutely will she press forward for future honor, still upholding her glorious example of liberty, industry and enterprise for the contemplation of her sister nations.

And now let every one of whatever station, fill in his allotted duty; let us all act well our parts, and make the record of our Centennial a grand one for ourselves, for our country, and for the world. *Per aspera ad astra.*

### Bloomfield Public Schools.

The schools closed last Friday for the holiday vacation. The exhibitions that took place in the Berkley and Brookside Primaries disclose a vast improvement in these outside schools, within the past year or two. At the Brookside school, of which the Misses Shibley and Ufford are instructors, the children's exhibition, consisting of singing, gymnastic and declamations, was especially praiseworthy.

On Friday afternoon, the closing exercises of the Central School took place in the High School room. Only scholars of the highest and lowest classes participated, and all acquitted themselves nobly. The marching and gymnastic exercise, by one of the primary classes, was splendid. Several members of the High School gave recitations and declamations which were, unexceptionably, of high merit. There were also compositions, which deserve especial mention, because it is something new for pupils in our schools to appear thus publicly as essayists. We have heretofore had, in these school exhibitions, a profusion of declamation and reading, without any examples of talent in this other and very important branch. We hope that now the initiative has been so credibly taken by Masters Brown and Miller, composition will receive more attention, and that no talent will remain hidden away in the napkin of oblivion.

All the school-rooms were beautified by mottoes, in letters woven from autumn leaves, making a very pretty effect. Window-gardening and art-culture seem also to receive attention, in some of the class-rooms. In fact, everything about the schools is indicative of progress. We have no hesitation in saying that Bloomfield has reason to be proud of her public schools.

### The Week of Prayer.

The first week in the new year will be generally observed as a week of prayer by the Evangelical churches throughout the Union.

The Evangelical Alliance suggests the following topics for meditation:

Sunday, January 2d.—Sermon: The love of God perfected in him who "keepeth His works." 1 John 1: 5.

Monday, January 3d.—Thanksgiving and Confession. A retrospective of the past year.

Tuesday, January 4th.—Prayer for the church of Christ.

Wednesday, January 5th.—Prayer for families.

Thursday, January 6th.—Prayer for rulers, Magistrates and Statesmen; for soldiers and sailors; for national institutions; for philanthropic and charitable societies; for prisoners and captives; and for the persecuted and oppressed.

Friday, January 7th.—Prayer for Christian Missions; and for the conversion of the world to Christ.

Saturday, January 8th.—Prayer for all nations; and the maintenance of peace; for cessation of tumults, wars and civil strife; and for the removal of temperance, immorality and infidelity from the land.

Sunday, January 9th.—Sermon: The ultimate triumph. Psalm LXVII: 17.

Father Henry Boehm, the patriarch of the Methodist Episcopal Church, died at the residence of his granddaughter, near Richfield, Staten Island, on Tuesday afternoon at sunset, having passed his one hundredth birthday on June 8 of the present year. Father Boehm was the oldest clergyman in the world, there being no other who has attained the age of one hundred years.

An East Orange tax gatherer has discovered a man who insists that there is a "19th amendment" to the Constitution of the United States, exempting British subjects, of which he is one, from taxation. He paid his poll tax under protest, saying he would appeal to the Queen. He wrote across the face of his bill, "I pay this under protest, in the name of Great Britain." The Gazette hopes it won't lead to war between the township and England.

### Christmas at the Old Church.

A Christmas Service of a novel character was given in the First Presbyterian Church in this place last Sunday evening. The filling up of the seats in the galleries and organ-loft at an unusually early hour denoted that the anticipation of this joyous commemoration of Christ's Birthday had excited unusual interest. A white cord was stretched around the pews of the middle aisle, with the exception of a few near the door, the reservation having been made for the teachers and scholars of the Sunday School. The side pews and unreserved galleries were rapidly taken, leaving a large parallelogram of unoccupied seats in the central part of the house. This vacancy, together with the subdued light and the heavy, dark green foliage of the evergreen trimming, imparted, for a time, almost a feeling of loneliness to the scene, until the sudden lighting up of the reflectors in the ceiling sent a thrill of refuge down which dispelled the deceptive coolness and imparted a joyous warmth that penetrated to every part of the large building. What had before seemed like a sombre forest was now lighted up as by magic, creating throughout the audience a responsive thrill of sympathy and admiration as each one saw the effect of the elaborate adornment of walls, windows, columns and ceilings with evergreens, flowers and texts, in the spirit of the Saviour's Advent. From a

central point in the ceiling foliage wreaths, sixteen in number, were suspended as decorative festoons, the ends terminating at the tops of windows and angles of the building. Wreaths of the same material were looped from the points of suspension over the windows along the side walls. The spaces between were decorated by crosses, stars and other emblems, woven from branches of holly. The gallery-fronts were also festooned, and the supporting columns entwined with evergreens. Appropriate Bible texts in dark Gothic letters upon a white ground were placed on the panel-work of the gallery in various places. Under the arched wood-work in rear of the pulpit was displayed, in a semicircle, the text "Hosanna to the Son of David." In front of the platform was arranged a parterre of choice flowers consisting of calla and other winter-blooming plants.

Altogether the adornment of the church was exceedingly chaste and beautiful, depending in its profusion and artful arrangement much labor and good taste on the part of those who provided it. It is stated that considerable over half a mile of wreath were required in ornamentation, while the cost, besides the gratuitous labor expended, was about one hundred dollars. This may seem like a large sum to be expended for a Christmas church decoration, but it strikes us as being one of the most touching, appropriate and worshipful ways in which that great event of ecclesiastic history—Christ's advent—can be commemorated. While a few may regard it from a Judaic's standpoint, and say—"Why this great waste?"—while some thoughtless ones may see and comprehend no device being employed. In this gallery a novel effect is produced by a bell of interwoven evergreens suspended from the ceiling, and a festoon of foliage.

### M. E. Church.

The Christmas festivities in the M. E. Church consisted of a fine musical entertainment given by the Young Men's Association, according to their usual custom. The Concert was a complete success, and urgent calls were made for its repetition, which was announced for this evening. The church is very handsomely trimmed. Upon the platform, including the desk, is a beautiful arched structure consisting of two columns, supporting an arch, upon which in gilded letters are the words "Glory to God in the Highest, Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men." The windows, walls and chandeliers are very tastefully ornamented, anchors, crosses and other appropriate devices being employed. In this gallery a novel effect is produced by a bell of interwoven evergreens suspended from the ceiling, and a festoon of foliage.

### Westminster.

On Wednesday evening, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, was given a holiday entertainment for the Sabbath School of that Society. The exercises consisted of Quartettes, Recitations, Addresses and Stereophony Views. Notwithstanding the unpleasantness of the night, a full house repair the workers for their endeavors to make the scholars happy. Candy and oranges were distributed to the children immediately before leaving for home.

The pastor, Dr. Kennedy, who had been absent from his usual place several weeks, was met with pleasant greetings as he again came among his people.

### The Horse Fair.

The horse fair of the Newark and Bloomfield line, have ceased running. This course has long been in contemplation by the owners of the line, Messrs. Battin, Ballantine and Lee, because the portion of the line has never paid. This will prove a serious inconvenience to parties living along the line. That portion of the line between the depot in Mt. Prospect avenue, and the South Broad street terminus, will be continued.

Some gentleman at the Presbyterian Socieble Wednesday evening went away early with the minister's new hat, leaving it an old one in place of it. Probably it was not an intentional trade. But still, there is a story of the man who always went home early in order to have a good choice among the hats. Who is the connoisseur in head-covering for this village?

On Wednesday, the D. L. & W. R. R. reduced the price of monthly communication between this place and New York to \$6.50. The Montclair and Greenwood Lake Road people then issued a notice stating that the rates on the new road would be the same as their competitors, for monthly communication by Montclair and Bloomfield.

Sheriff Campfield, who has been confined to his home some days by a severe cold, is now regarded as dangerously ill, and his attending physician expresses anxiety as to the result.—Newark Advertiser.

The Rev. D. Thos. MacLymont, of Stillwater, will preach next Sabbath in the Baptist Church, Bloomfield. Seals free, all are welcome.

The Week of Prayer will be observed by the different churches in this place, beginning with a united meeting called by the Bloomfield Union Tract Society, to be held on Sunday evening in the First Presbyterian church. The order of service, as prescribed by the Evangelical Alliance, for each evening, as given elsewhere, will be adhered to.

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